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Rendition

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Rendition

Abdul Malik

I look pleadingly
into their eyes
as they pull the
last of my fingernails—
The pain is excruciating
and I pass out amid my
heartrending screams.

When I come to,
I am engulfed
in total darkness;
I find myself lying
it appears in my own
blood, sweat & filth.

I try looking around
but could see nothing,
I touch gingerly
and find my eyes
swollen shut,
My nose punched
into a bloody pulp,
My lips torn open and
all my teeth knocked out.

Jesus, where am I,
What have they done to me,
What do they want of me,
I know nothing
I am just a regular Joe
struggling to raise a family,
Hoping to live the American dream,
What would I know of
Jihadi cell or terrorist network?

I begin quivering in sheer fright—
Oh God, did they bring me here
just because my name is
M U H A M M A D?!